

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee thank you for allowing me to appear here today to express my opposition to the Tethering Bill. I have been actively involved with dogs on a daily basis for over 55 years as a breeder, exhibitor. Professional handler licensed by the AKC , an AKC dog show judge and a pet owner. As a licensed handler I attended over 175 shows a year exhibiting dogs in 46 of the contiguous United States. I give you all this to demonstrate to you my personal experiences with the everyday living and working with dogs whether they be AKC registered or just a mongrel. Currently I am president of the Windham County KC as well as treasurer of the Connecticut dog federation. The Ct.D.F. is a club made up of 40 AKC licensed dog clubs located throughout the state of Ct with 2,000 registered voters as members as well as their extended families.

This bill ,as written, will have a negative impact on a large number of responsible dog owners with very little impact on the owners for which this bill is intended . Who will continue to ignore the bill if it is passed.

The space required in the bill does not take the size of the various breeds of dogs into consideration. A Great Dane or a Chihuahua do not require the same area. There are over 165 AKC recognized breeds as well as untold sizes and shapes of mix breeds licensed yearly in this state. One size does not fit all . There is no consideration given to the various breed characteristics requirements. Sled dogs, Huskies, Sammys, and Mals thrive in the cold . They normally do not do well in heated homes while Chihuahua or Chinese Cresteds and many small breeds need the heated homes to survive. Cresteds have to be protected from the sun while the Nordic dog thrive under all sets of

conditions. Yet there is no consideration given in this bill to cover these different variables.

Who is going to enforce this bill? Are you expecting the towns to hire more animal control officers? Towns, which are currently running at a deficit and, for example, having to let 100 teachers go because there is no money to pay them. Or is the state going to hire more animal control officers and increase the size of the Dept. of Agriculture so they can enforce this bill? A department, that is so strapped for money that they currently have an animal control officer doing his job as well as that of his boss who retired over a year ago. What kind of training are these new hires going to be given? Where is the money going to come from to train them? Are you going to leave the enforcement of this law to untrained ACOs to determine if the animal is unreasonably confined for an unreasonable time? This allows for personal opinions, personal prejudices and total lack of uniformity to occur. Thus, leading to potential law suits by aggrieved owners. Do you expect ACOs to sit outside various dog owners' residences to time how long the dog is tied out? If so, how can they assure that the owners have full vision of their dogs at all times. Has any consideration been given to the owners of service dogs? No where, that I can find. How can a blind person with a seeing eye dog have full view of their dog. Or handicapped individuals confined to a bed or wheel chair for that matter.

This bill's requirements does not take into consideration the health of the animal. Animals recovering from an illness or surgery are often required to be crated for an extended period of time.

Many elderly people, who are your constituents, will be negatively and severely harmed by this bill. Such people who live in communities ^{like} ~~such~~ as senior housing, condos and apartments, that do not allow fencing of any kind. What about the old people of physically disabled who cannot walk their dogs and must tie them out to relieve themselves and get a little exercise? In many cases these dogs are these people best friends and prized possessions. If this bill is passed it will end their ability to keep their dogs forcing them to turn them over to a shelter thus putting another burden on the tax payers who support these shelters.

Personally I never travel with my dogs in a car unless they are crated. No they cannot stand up but they are secure like all persons in the car WEARING THEIR SEAT BELTS. My puppies start out being crated for training, the safety of the puppy and my residence. As a result many of my older dogs will readily get into an open crate as they regard it as their space. This happens especially when grandchildren appear on the scene.

Once again various breed which are bred for specific reasons like your sled dogs and hunting dogs are kept tethered for a reason. Sled dogs, it teaches them to bond and be able to work together, hunting dogs, it gives them a chance to get the scent while waiting to be released to hunt; especially at field trials. There are many reasons to tether dogs that are not cruel or inhuman.

I could go on but know I am limited to a time frame. Let me say that if this bill is passed it will hurt far more responsible dog owners than it will correct the problem. It will be an added burden on the tax payers of

this state. It is ridiculous and will be a waste of tax payers' money to pass this bill which cannot be enforced unless an exorbitant amounts of public funds are allocated to train, certify and hire sufficient personnel to enforce this farce.

Why make owning a dog such a burden on your constituents? Besides they spend lots of money in the local economy because of their pets; plus providing employment opportunities for many who are involved with pet care.

As I am sure I have used up my time, I have provided a hand out, prepared by The American Kennel Club, which explains the vast economic impact to our state created by the number of dog shows held here yearly

Thank you for you time

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